

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Commercial Red Snapper Closure

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:317 which provides that the secretary of the department may declare a closed season when it is in the best interest of the state, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby finds that an imminent peril to the public welfare exists and accordingly adopts the following emergency rule.

Effective midnight April 11, 1996, the commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close until 12:01 a.m., September 15, 1996. Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of red snapper by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Effective with this closure, no person shall commercially harvest, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell red snapper. Effective with the closure, no person shall possess red snapper in excess of a daily bag limit. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing red snapper taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.4.

The secretary has been notified by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service that the gulfwide commercial red snapper quota has been reached, and the season closure is necessary to prevent overfishing of this species.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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